# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COAL AND MINES
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2039
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2001
REDUCTION OF STRENGTH OF GSI
MINATI SEN;SUBODH ROY

**Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Union Government propose to cut down work related to mineral exploration, mapping and drilling in the Geological Survey of India (GSI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether only GSI in the country can find out and identify disaster prone zones and mineral deposits;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to reduce the strength of GSI and its field of activity; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) : The National Mineral Policy of 1993 recognised the need for encouraging private investment including foreign direct investment and state-of-the-art technology in mineral sector both for exploration as well as exploitation of minerals. The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 was amended in 1994 and 1999 resulting in simplification of procedures. The Expenditure Reforms Commission has also recommended for the revision of therole of Geological Survey of India.The Government of India is contemplating to setup an expert committee to review the working of GSI in the changing times. However, GSI will continue mapping and exploration for certain minerals in which inventory is very low and where private sector would not step in.

c) GSI carries out geological mapping and studies in seismotectonic, land slides, Glaciers, volcano etc. which help in the identification of disaster prone areas. Other central agencies which undertake such studies to a limited extent are Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, National Geophysical Research Institute and IndianMeteorological Department under Department of Science and Technology.

GSI has been associated with discovery of all major mineral deposits in the country.However, there are State Departments of Geology and Mines, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, National Mineral Development Corporation, Coal India Limited Hindustan Zinc Limited and other agencies which are also engaged in mineral exploration in the country.

d) & e) The Expenditure Reforms Commission in their recommendations related to GSI haverecommended for the revision of its charter and down-sizing of the organisation, which shall be considered by the expert committee to be setup and any follow-up action would be considered in the light of its recommendation.